U045.101

WATCH FOR THE EXAM SCHEDULE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE CANNON!

OCTOBER 27, 1999

the cannon

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ENGINEERING SOCIETY — VOLUME XVII ISSUE III

Skule™ Shows Off at Third Annual U of T Day

BY MARCUS LAM

U of T Day, the annual university-wide open house, was held on Saturday October 16th. Now in its third year, the event openly invites the general public to explore the various colleges and faculties at the university.

At Engineering, tours and information sessions began at around 10am, and continued on until 4 in the afternoon. Throughout the day, visitors of all ages wandered into the main foyer in the Galbraith building to peruse the various programs and features offered in our faculty. Each of the 9 academic programs had set up mini information booths staffed with students and professors to answer any questions. Each department also offered tours of their laboratories and showcased recent design projects.

The Engineering Student Recruitment Office (ESRO) also took advantage of U of T Day in promoting various events for senior high school students. Pamphlets and flyers with information on Frosh For A Day and Skule™Daze were given out and many visitors proceeded to sign up for the event immediately.

And of course, no engineering event would be complete without the firing of the cannon. This was done on St. George Street around noon time. Also parading through the engineering buildings was the LGMB; many visitors were impressed by the BNAD's spirit and music. In addition, the Skule™Nite band also performed various musical numbers in front of GB.

Although the event had a strong commercial overtone, many admissions and scholarship questions on applying to engineering were answered. For next year, the university may concentrate even more on recruiting potential applicants, instead of simply promoting the university and its sponsors to the general public. A special thanks goes to all the staff and student volunteers who supported the event. If you're interested in helping out future recruitment/orientation sessions (like Frosh for a Day, Engineering Open House), feel free to email the High School Liaison Committee at highschool@skule.ca. ❖

(Left) Getting them hooked early... (Right) Professor Phil Byer eggs the crowd on, raising money for the United Way on his shift at the dunk tank.

Ontario Engineering Society Presidents (OESP) Conference Report

BY PAUL GRAHAM – VP EXTERNAL

This past September24th through 26th saw yet another conference take place. This time is was just for the President and VP-External of each Engineering society. It goes without saying that Sean Voskamp (your president) and I (your VP-X) were there representing the views of Skule™ and leaving a trail wherever we drove. What is the point of this kind of conference? As the name would suggest, the conference was mainly for the presidents, this being the only time that they get to meet all year. It is greatly beneficial—we have a lot to learn form our neighboring societies.

For example, did you know that our constitution is 50 pages long? The United States Constitution, with amendments, is 6 pages. Yeah, so ours is a little excessive. Rewriting our constitution has been talked about for years. Hopefully it will finally happen this year with the help of a couple of engsoc keeners and the knowledge of other societies' constitutions it.

(Anyway, enough about that… now for what I had to sit through…)

The ESSCO executive is working on major things, such as trying to promote ESSCO as an organization and finding sponsorship. They are looking to finally finish the Great Engineering Resource Manual (GERM), intended for use by high school students who wish to learn what each Engineering school in Ontario really has to offer. They are also working on our relations with the Professional Engineers of Ontario (PEO) and the student membership initiative (see below). Other projects include a charity event for the ESSCO'lympics, Wonderland Physics Day and ATOP (Access to Opportunities Program).

Ok, so you're asking yourself, what the heck is this PEO Student Membership thing… and why should I care? Well, here's the deal: some years back,

ESSCO thought it would be a good idea to improve relations with the PEO. They thought of the idea of having a student membership to the PEO that would reduce the gap between an undergrad and a Peng. After a whole ton of paper work (not to mention time) this is finally going to happen. The best part is that it is FREE. Starting in January 2000, provided that our computers still work, you will be able to sign up online and receive your membership through the mail. The benefits will include a subscription to Engineering Dimensions, which will soon include a student page, access to parts of the PEO job database on its Webster. Other benefits will be finalized before January. So, what's the hook? Well, apart from getting free stuff, there aren't any. More details to follow, so, keep your eyes peeled.

Other topics discussed were Frosh Week, sponsorship, OEC, inter-school events and conference mandating. Oh yeah, there was a session on Apathy, but I didn't feel like going, so I'm not really sure what was said. If you have any further questions about OESP, ESSCO, PEO (and various other acronyms I -ed.) student membership or similar issues feel free to e-mail me and I'll get the info for you. vpexternal@skule.ca ❖

"The GRAD*itude* Attitude": GRAD*itude* 2000 Campaign Underway

BY JEAN CRUZ

"It all began in 1983 because the Engineering computer equipment was so out of date that some Engineering students carried a punch card computer to Simcoe Hall and smashed it with a sledgehammer in protest. In 1984, the graduating class in Engineering organized the first U of T graduating gift program. With the money they raised from their graduating class, they were able to purchase new computers for the incoming students." (GRAD*itude* 2000 Handbook)

This year GRAD*itude*, "the oldest and most successful graduating gift campaign of its kind in Canada," goes underway with a new theme and a great deal of momentum. Year after year, our graduates have generously pledged money primarily towards the improvement of undergraduate laboratory equipment. Engineers have been known, however, to pledge the money towards other things such as financial aid or the Engineering Society's Lady Godiva Memorial Band.

Very soon, GRAD*itude* subchairs from each department will visit the class of OTO and 9T9+PEY to continue Engineering's tradition of generosity. ❖

They're coming... sm2k

editorial

the cannon

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Subscription information is available at the Engineering Society at 416-978-2917. For advertising rates, production deadlines and other information, please contact us at cannon@skule.ca

PLEASE NOTE
the cannon is a medium through which undergraduate engineering students can express their opinions. The views expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the Engineering Society unless so indicated.

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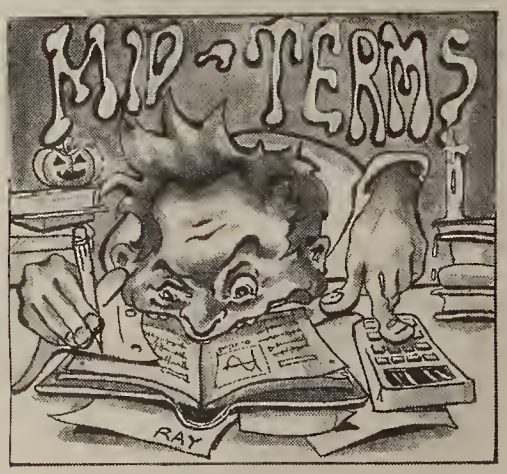


(Sometimes the thought that my engineering education has prevented me from developing insightful and clear writing skills crosses my mind...)

A letter from LakeheadU (on this page) has recently prompted us at the Cannon to return to our mission statement – why do we exist? Why does any student newspaper exist?

The Cannon, mostly subsidized by the Engineering Society (representing you), is responsible for fulfilling a particular need. We've defined success (fulfilling this need) as providing students with useful information (Skule™ news, exam schedules) and a forum for communication (opinions, announcements, features).

Is this need valid? It may sound utilitarian, but unless we have a valid purpose, it's awfully difficult to justify funding. Another question: are we successfully fulfilling this need? It is again difficult to justify funding for an unsuccessful project. Only feedback can answer these questions.

Newspapers are in a position to *speak* to a large group of people. This is a very powerful ability. They're used to sell things, or to spread news (scandalous or otherwise), to provide entertainment, or to provide a forum. Unless a newspaper's mandate is firmly rooted on the needs of the people it serves — its readers — it becomes superfluous.

The implications of the above statements are obvious. Their proof is left to the reader as an exercise.

email

Date: Fri, 1 Oct 1999 00:34:38 EST
From: "Lakehead University. Engineering Students Society" <ess@SKY.LAKEHEADU.CA>
Subject: HELP: Engineering Student Newspapers

This is for anybody on the link that can help me out. So please, everybody respond to this...I need all the help I can get.

The ESS has said something that worries me. A lot. Someone mentioned, in passing, that we may be discontinuing the ESS newspaper: theRACK. We have always referred to theRACK as "a rag" in the past, but it has always meant a lot to me (and editors in the past). It is nice to have people ask when the next issue is coming out, or tell us how great they thought the last issue was.

But now these recent comments have me concerned over theRACK's future. If you can, please comment on how important you think your society's newspaper is to the students you represent. If you want to post them to the Link or email me directly, please feel free. If you don't want the rest of the Exec to see what you write, you can email me directly at therack@ice.lakeheadu.ca. Only the Editor-in-Chief (i.e. me) can access that account.

Please help me out with this. I really think this means a lot to us as an Eng Soc.

Thanks everybody.
Steven Hodder, ElecEng
VP External 99/Y2K
LakeheadU Engineering Student Society
Editor-in-Chief, theRACK

letter

Re: A Tale of Two (Undergrad) TAs, *The Cannon*, September 29, 1999.

As a student who was subjected to undergraduate TAs last year, with varying experiences, I was both amused and alarmed after reading the article about undergraduate TAs in last month's *Cannon*. I had always been under the impression that undergraduate TAs were simply a temporary solution to the problem of the faculty being unable to attract enough grad students to be TAs. Now, after reading the article, I am shocked to see that the faculty not only intends on continuing the practice, but of making undergraduate TAs a permanent fixture in our faculty.

There are many reasons why undergraduate TAs should not be permitted. First, there is the whole conflict-of-interest issue. When one's TA is an undergraduate, there is a good chance that one will have had extracurricular interactions with that individual, not necessarily pleasant in all cases. I have met many people through my involvement in Eng Soc, and while most of my experiences have been pleasant, a few have not, due to some unprofessional individuals. Some of these people have gone on to be undergraduate TAs, and I am certain that if they ended up as my TA, they would not be able to act in a professional manner towards me. Of course, there is no guarantee that this will not happen if the person goes on to be a grad student, but the chance of getting a TA with whom you have had previous bad experiences are greatly reduced by the age/grade gap between undergrads and grad students.

Secondly, many *graduate* TAs have complained already about the inadequate training they receive from the faculty. So what makes the faculty think that the undergraduate TAs will even be equal in quality to our graduate TAs? For undergraduate students right now, getting a good TA is a crap-shoot, even when the pool of candidates is made up of grad students. What would be the quality of an average TA if the pool was made up of, say, half grad students and half undergraduates?

However, I am most incensed by the need to hire undergraduate TAs at all. Given the huge increase in undergraduate enrollment, the faculty should have long ago tried to increase enrollment of graduate students, say, by attracting more undergraduates to continue their studies. I believe the faculty has not done this because it has failed to attract enough professors to teach here. The solution should have been, many years ago, to ramp up the hiring of professors, because at the present time, *every* engineering school in North America wants to hire professors, and this is why we are facing such a shortage. In other words, the faculty has failed, for whatever reason, to anticipate the explosion of popularity in science and technology careers, and now must play catch-up.

The solution, naturally, is that the faculty should attempt to correct their mistake by aggressively trying to hire professors (which they are currently doing) but also try to aggressively recruit students into their graduate programs. There are other benefits to having more grad students (for example, happy grad students make happy professors) but as far as the issue of TA staffing is concerned, more grad students naturally means more available TAs.

I sincerely hope that the faculty continues to view the use of undergraduate TAs as a temporary solution, because as history has shown us, once a temporary solution becomes the status quo, it is extremely difficult to deviate from it.

Julian Dunn, COMP 0T0+PEY

Engineering Computing Facility - It's Yours!

BY WILL CLUETT — CHAIR, ECF MANAGEMENT BOARD

The primary objective of the Engineering Computing Facility (ECF) is to provide excellent computer services to all of our engineering undergraduate students. We have been busy over the past several months upgrading the facility. I would just like to point out that you that the undergraduate student body (represented by the Engineering Society) contributed $36,000 through the Student Levy Fund to these recent upgrades.

The following upgrades to our servers and labs have been carried out over the summer or are still on-going this term:

SERVERS

Six new servers have been purchased. They are all dual Pentium III machines (450MHz, 256 MB memory) currently configured with only 1 processor. The first server installed was the mail server, which has shown great performance improvements. In the very near future the other five servers will go into use as file servers for user home directories (one each for 1st Year, 2nd Year, 3rd Year, 4th Year, and all other accounts (professors, graduate students, research)). Additional servers will be installed later this term dedicated to Web and News.

LABS

36 new Dell PC's (Pentium III, 450 MHz) with 19 inch monitors have been installed in MC402. New printers are about to be installed in MC404 and EA109. EA109 now houses the 36 Dell PC's purchased last year for MC402.

WEB SERVICES

Every student account can have its own personal web page. To initialize your web page you run the wwwinit command. This command creates the necessary directory on the web server, installs a preliminary web page and creates a link to this space in the user's home directory called public_html. The URL for this account would be the login name: http://www.ecf.utoronto.ca/~login, where login is your ECF login name. The student's web page should contain information about the student (perhaps a resume) and any files needed for web based courses. Files not used for the web site should not be stored in this area. These sites are not to be used for non-academic activity. For more information read the general messages: /usr/msgs/general/494 & 502

FOOD & DRINK

We take great pride in ECF and hope you do too. Please help us look after the facility by not eating or drinking in the labs. If you see other students mistreating the facility in any way, I would appreciate it if you would report this to either myself or the ECF Manager, Phil Poulos right away.

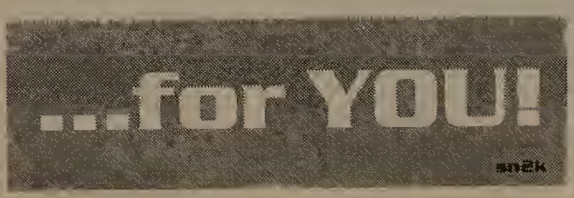
ECF STAFF

ECF Manager: Phil Poulos (phil@ecf); Systems Support: Bob Manson (bob@ecf), Harpreet Dhariwal (harpreet@ecf), Evan Sidoriak (evan@ecf), Par Kanth (par@ecf), Desmond Chow; Office Support: Cathy Malfara (cathy@ecf, GB154)

We welcome your feedback and suggestions! ❖

The current ECF labs are in the following locations (with the type and number of seats given in brackets): WB316 (PC-44); MC402 (PC-36); MC404 (PC-20); EA109 (PC-36); SF1012 (UNIX-47); SF1106 (UNIX-30)

Please note that students can open a UNIX session on the main Skule computer server from any ECF PC using X-server.



Software Available on ECF

PC Software List

SOFTWARE NAME	DESCRIPTION	VERSION
2Dpif	Simulation Development	v.4.2e
Acrobat Reader 3.0	File view/print utility	v.3
AutoCad R14	CAD Drawing package	v.14.01
Awe Sim	Simulation Development	v.2.000
Borland Software\Builder	C compiler	
Borland \C++ 4.5	C compiler	v.4.500
Borland\C++ 4.5\Help Files	C compiler	v.4.500
Cambridge Materials Selector	Project Development	v.2020
Case	Simulation Development	
Civ\Processing Modflow 5	Simulation Development	v.50.0.56
Civ\SureTrak	Simulation Development	v.2.000
EnTech Analyse 3.1c	Simulation Development	v.3.1c
EnTech Tuner 3.1e	Simulation Development	v.3.1e
EPANET	Simulation Development	v.3.1e
GSview	File view/print utility	
HSC	Simulation Software	
HYSIS	Simulation Development	v.1.50
Lingo - Lindo	Math/Statistics	
Lingo4	Math/Statistics	v.4.0
LSA Stroop	Simulation Development	v.3.01a
Maple	Math/Statistics	v.5.000
Minitab	Math/Statistics	v.12.000
Netscape Communicator	Communication	v.4.06
Microsoft Office 97 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access)		
MS PhotoEditor	Image Editor (MS Office)	v.102
Java(tm) Plug-in HTML	Programming Language	v.1.1.1
Project	Simulation Development	v.1.000
Pspice ver.8	Simulation Development	v.8.000
Rapid FTP	Communication	
Reliability Analysis	Simulation Development	
Rocscience	Simulation Development	
Rocscience\Examine3D	Simulation Development	v.4.095
Rocscience\Phase2 win	Simulation Development	v.4030
Rocscience\RocFall	Simulation Development	v.2.010
Rocscience\Swedge	Simulation Development	v.3.000
Solutions Plus	Math/Statistics	v.2.000
TELNET	Communication	
Transvp	Simulation Development	v.1.5
Visual Analysis	Simulation Development	v.3.11
WatPro		v.1.2
WinReact	Simulation Development	v.1.100
Working Model 2D 4.0	Simulation Development	v.4.01
X-Server	Communication	v.2.11

UNIX Software List

SOFTWARE NAME	DESCRIPTION	VERSION
ANSYS	Finite Element Analysis	v.5.5.3
IDEAS	Finite Element (mechanical)	v.7
MATLAB (including Simulink 3.0, MATLAB Compiler 2.0, and Control Systems 4.2,Optimization 2.0, Signal Processing 4.2, Image Processing 2.2, PDE 1.0.3 Toolboxes)	Data Analysis	v.5.3
MAPLE	Interactive System for Data Analysis	
XSB	Prolog	
CLIPS	Expert System Development	
HSPICE	Simulation Program for Electronic Circuits	
scheme	Programming Language	v.48-0.46
C compiler	Programming Language	
C++ compiler	Object Oriented Language	
F77	Fortan compiler	
ddd	Graphical Display Debugger	EGCS v.1.1.1
gdb	GNU debugger	
gcc	GNU C compiler	v.2.6.3
g++	GNU C++ compiler	EGCS v.1.1.1
JDK	Java development kit	v.1.1.6

These packages are available on the SUN spark1-29 machines:

ABEL	FPGA design environment	v.4.32
XSB	Prolog	
GCL	Common Lisp system	v.2.11
C compiler	Programming Language	
F77	Fortran compiler	
ddd	Graphical Display Debugger	
gdb	GNU debugger	
gcc	GNU C compiler	
g++	GNU C++ compiler	
JDK	Java development kit	
scheme	Programming Language	
stk	Satellite Tool Kit	v.3.0

Trading Up: eBay VP a Canadian and U of T graduate

By Mark Evans - The Globe and Mail

Despite the enormous success of eBay Inc., Jeff Skoll claims that his life hasn't changed much – he still drives a 10-year-old Mazda RX-7 and lives with several friends in a rented house.

That's a little surprising for one of the Silicon Valley's newest multi-billionaires, but Skoll, who graduated from the University of Toronto in 1987 with a degree in electrical engineering, says things have pretty much stayed the same since eBay emerged as the Internet's most popular on-line auction site this past year. "I am still doing what I was doing before – strategic planning and analysis. It keeps me pretty busy," he says, joking that his schedule doesn't give him "a lot of time for beer lately."

The Internet moves so quickly it's no wonder that Skoll, 34, has had little time to reflect on his accomplishments, let alone go on extended shopping sprees – via the Web or otherwise – with some of his reported $4.2-billion net worth. That figure fluctuates with the current share price, but with an 18.9-per cent stake in the company's stock that went public last September, Skoll became the fifth-wealthiest Canadian on the planet, according to the *Canadian Business* Rich 100 list.

Since June of 1996, eBay, the world's number-one 'personal trading community", as he prefers to call it, has attracted 3.8 million registered users who seek to buy and sell everything via the eather from fine art to Beanie Babies. This year the company projects $2.7 billion US in transations, yet he seems as rooted in reality as the day he made the dean's honours list on graduating from U of T.

Part of Skoll's obvious tendency to understate his success might be attributed to his Canadian roots. He was born in Montreal and moved to Toronto with his family when he was 13. During his undergraduate years he co-edited engineering's satirical student newspaper, *The Toike Oike*, then he founded two companies in Toronto: Skoll Engineering, a computer consulting firm, and Micros on the Move Ltd., a computer rental operation. Despite these forays he felt he needed to improve his business skills, so he completed an MBA in 1995 at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business.

Safwat Zaky, chair of the department of electrical and computer engineering and Skoll's fourth-year project supervisor, is not surprised that he has thrived in the business world. "He had a tendency to be independent and come up with ideas." All the same, Skoll's decision in 1996 to leave a stable job with Knight-Ridder Information to develop the Internet auction site was a gamble. Although his salary was set at $30,000 US, initially he drew no pay at all.

eBay's roots date back to 1995 when founder Pierre Moidyar and his fiancee were talking about the difficulty she was having trying to contact other people who collect Pez candy dispensers. Omidyar realized the Internet would be the perfect vehicle to create a trading community, but on-line auctions were still more a concept than a business when Skoll and Omidyar quit their jobs a year later to work on the project full-time.

eBay's roots date back to 1995 when founder Pierre Moidyar and his fiancee were talking about the difficulty she was having trying to contact other people who collect Pez candy dispensers.

As president of the San Jose, Calif.-based company, Skoll set about engineering its growth. A key component of that challenge was acquisitions, as eBay moved into new areas and international markets. There has been a dizzying series of deals in the past year, including the purchase of Butterfield & Butterfield of San Francisco, one of the world's most prestigious fine-art auction houses.

Skoll relinquished the title of president last year to become vice-president of strategic planning and analysis, which allows him more time for business development. While he has played a crucial role in eBay's rapid growth, he is also a great believer in supporting the community around him. This became clear in July when he made a $7.5-million gift to the university to finance a joint program that will allow students to take a degree in engineering simultaneously with a master's degree in business administration.

Of the $7.5 million, $4.5 million will be used to create two chairs at the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering and one chair at the Joseph L. Rotman School of Management. This money will be matched by U of T. The remaining $3 million of the gift – matched by the Ontario government – will help finance the construction of a new centre for information technology.

The plan is the culmination of something Skoll has been thinking about since he graduated and pursued a career as an entrepreneur in the high-tech industry. "When I was at U of T, I got a good technical education," he says. "What I didn't learn and what I didn't see available was a perspective on what you can do with it all and how you build a career. ❖

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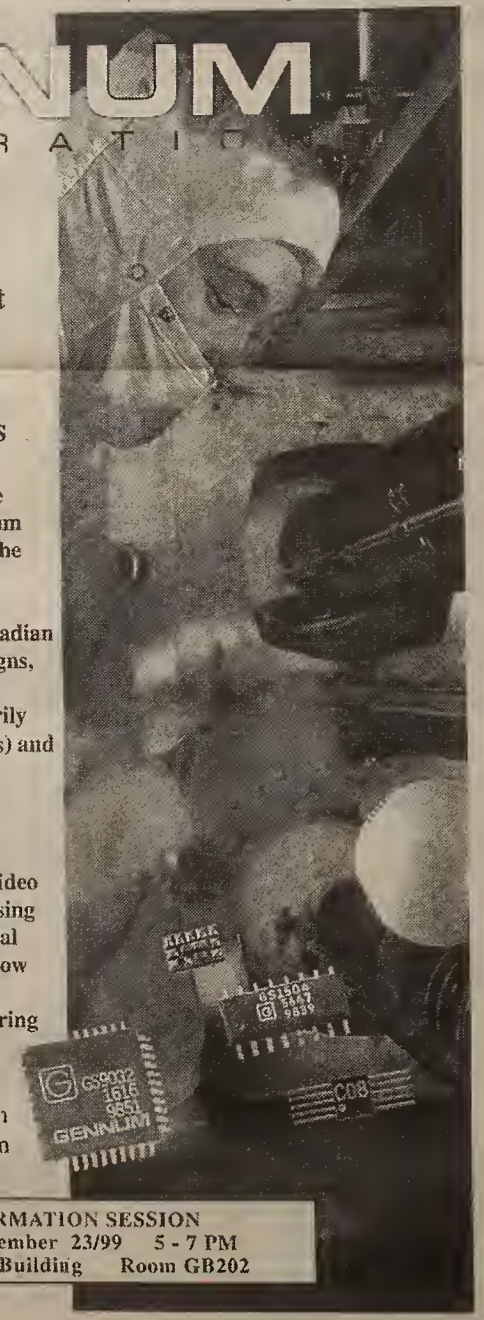

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Thur. Nov. 4th	**5:30pm - 10:00pm**	**GB248**
Fri. Nov. 5th	**5:30pm - 10:00pm**	**GB248**
Sat. Nov 6th	**10:30am - 5:00pm**	**GB248**

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in short

Hello and welcome to the Lassonde Mineral Engineering Table.

30 Hours of Hunger, 30 Hours of Hope: Engineering Students Organize Fast for Food Bank

BY JEAN CRUZ

At 9:00am on November 5, for the fourth year in a row, engineering students are going hungry for 30 hours to raise money for the Daily Bread Food Bank. In the past, fasters have had only juice or water for the entire 30 hours. There are even fasters who go with absolutely nothing. Every year, hungry participants end the event with a nice meal and the knowledge that they helped those in need. They leave knowing how it feels to be hungry in a place with much food. If you are interested in joining the fast, come to an information meeting at 5 p.m. in SF1013 on Thursday, October 28, or email Yuval at grinspy@ecf. ❖

Call for Submissions for Engineering Literary and Artistic Magazine

BY DAVE PHILLIPS

One Nightstand, a new magazine showcasing the literary and artistic talents of engineering students, is looking for submissions. Any original short stories, poems, rants or raves, reviews, photographs, paintings, drawings, scribbles or doodles are welcome.

Please send submissions to dave.phillips@utoronto.ca (or e-mail me with any inquiries). The first issue, although somewhat delayed (OK, really LATE), will be coming out shortly — so get your work in soon. Artwork and photographs may also be dropped off in the MECH 4th year box in EngSoc, with a note attached saying who the artist is, contact info, and "for David Phillips, One Nightstand". ❖

Mech/Indy Dinner Dance

(semi-formal)

Friday, November 12, 1999

The Great Hall

1087 Queen Street West

On Sale in the Atrium from 12-2 pm
Starting November 1st, 1999.

(ask your class rep for more information or email rebellm@ecf)

Only $35/ticket

Everyone is Welcome!

Mech Common Room: Cleaner, and Home to Cheapest Pop

BY MARY REBELLO — MECH CLUB SECRETARY

All Mechs come out and take a look at the cleaner Common Room! The pool table has been fixed, so there is TWICE as much to do now. The pop machine is working, and pop is only 50 cents. The Mech/Indy Dinner Dance is coming up on November 12 at the Great Hall, so we hope to see you all there. Frosh, bring all your non-Mech friends ! Stay tuned for more Mech Club news in the next Cannon... ❖

Engineers Can Look Forward to Better Exam Schedule

BY CARLA GONZALEZ

Faculty registrar Barbra McCann reassures the Cannon that exam schedules will not be as bad as they were last year. This year, the faculty is working closely with the central exam organizers in Simcoe Hall to ensure that engineering students have a decent schedule. Last year, some people had five in a row, which can be a harrowing experience since engineering does not have a week off to study for exams like Arts and Science students. Engineering Science 3rd year and 4th year exam schedules continue to be tricky because of the great range of courses that have to be accounted for. ❖

MMS Students Go on Whirlwind Industry Tour

BY MONIKA GO

On Friday, October 22, MMS students returned from a three-day industry tour, which brought them as far as Warren, Michigan. Every year, the Materials Engineering department collaborates with several companies whose products and processes are related to what Materials Engineering students can expect to see when they go into the workforce. This year, the students went to Dofasco (Hamilton, ON), Gates Rubber Company (Brantford, ON), Daimler-Chrysler Canada Inc. (Windsor, ON), Carboloy Inc. – a Seco Tools Company (Warren, Michigan), Ford Engine Plants (Windsor, ON) and Integrated Manufacturing Technologies Institute, part of the National Research Council of Canada (London, ON). ❖

All EngSoc Class Reps Voted In

BY SHU ZHEN WU

The last of the Engineering Society class representative elections were wrapped up recently, putting an end to a month long logistics saga. Each frosh group and each class/year (i.e. mech0T0s) are now the proud owners of an Engsoc class representative. Each representative has a mailbox in the SF B670, which is filled daily with announcements useful to their respective classes. They also responsible for representing their class in monthly Full Council meetings (read: free pizza and pop). Aside from Engsoc reps, each class should also have a Faculty Council representative, responsible for liaising between the professors and the class. ❖

Hallowe'en SUDS! Friday October 29 — Best costume wins a prize!

good to know

U of T's Financial Support Commitment

from U of T's Admissions and Awards

"No student admitted to a program at the University should be unable to enter or complete the program due to lack of financial means." This is the fundamental principle of a policy that was approved by the Governing Council in April 1998, making the University of Toronto unique among Canadian universities in providing this assurance of financial support, and in promising that students will have access to financial counselling.

The policy states that for students who are assessed by OSAP (or by another Canadian provincial government financial aid program) as requiring maximum assistance, and whose assessed need is not fully covered by government aid, the University will ensure that the full need is met.

Students who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents; in good academic standing; or are eligible for OSAP or other government support are covered by the commitment. All students, whether or not they receive assistance through the University's guarantee, can speak to their department's undergraduate counsellor regarding their financial issues.

For instance, students whose budgets look fine at the beginning of the school year can run into emergency situations. A roommate moves out suddenly, your glasses break, a part-time job disappears- there are many unexpected financial stresses. If you have financial problems, you can speak to your department's undergraduate counsellor.

For more information regarding financial assistance, engineering students can call 978-4159, Admissions and Awards at 978-2190, or check out the financial aid website, www.utaps.utoronto.ca/financial_aid. ❖

Celebrating U of T's Best, Brightest and Most Deserving

U of T's Alumni Association Invites Nominations for Awards of Excellence 2000

Know of any unsung heroes? Any member of the University of Toronto community may make nominations for the following awards:

The Faculty Award
A $1,000 prize recognizing excellence in teaching, research and professional endeavours

The Chancellor's Award
A $1,000 prize for outstanding contributions by an administrative staff member

The Joan E. Foley Quality of Student Experience Award
A $1000 award to a student, alumnus/a, administrative staff or faculty member who has made a significant contribution to improving the quality of academic or extra-curricular student life on campus

The Ludwik and Estelle Jus Memorial Human Rights Prize
A $1,500 prize recognizing positive and lasting contributions to education and action in the fight against discrimination. Faculty, staff and students may be nominated for this award.

The nomination and application deadline for these awards is 5pm, Friday, November 26, 1999. Drop into GB173 for copies of the nomination form and further details. ❖

Free shots!

Do you get sick easily? Do you suffer from the flu every winter? How about Hepatitis B? All those who answered yes, and anyone else who'd like to prevent themselves from getting the flu or Hepatitis B will be ecstatic to know that U of T Health Services is offering free (yes, FREE!) flu shots and Hepatitis B shots. Contact U of T Health Services for further information. ❖

IEEE Student Awards

Have an idea for a project but need financial help implementing? Have a paper on an idea that you would like to share? Then join IEEE! One of the benefits of being an IEEE student member is the many awards and scholarships that you are eligible for. These student awards will offer you an opportunity to gain recognition, enhance your resume and receive financial rewards. The UofT IEEE student members have won these awards numerous times in the past, and you can continue the success! Here are two of the awards you can apply to:

AT&T Labs Student Enterprise Award
Submit the proposal of your design project. The project topics can be of a technical or non-technical nature ranging from research on state-of-the-art technology to community service programs.

Prize: $1,000 funded by AT&T Foundation.
Eligibility: undergraduate IEEE student members
Submission deadline: November 15, 1999 (*Apply Quick!*)

Student Paper Competition
Papers covering technical, engineering, management, or social aspects of subjects reasonably within or related to areas with which the IEEE is concerned are accepted. The paper can be a thesis, course project or work term report, and can be co-authored by up to 4 students.

Prize: $550 (first place), $300 (second place), $150 (third place), and customized certificate.
Eligibility: all undergraduate IEEE student members.
Submission deadline: March 1, 2000

All prizes are quoted in U.S. funds. Join IEEE and pick up more information about these awards at the IEEE office (SFB580) or check out our website: http://www.ecf.toronto.edu/~ieee. ❖

ANNOUNCEMENT

Every U of T Engineering Student is invited to

ENGINEERING SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WED. NOVEMBER 3RD, 1999 MC 102 7:00 PM

The AGM is a meeting where we decide how money is going to be distributed within the society and make necessary amendments to the constitution.

In addition to the satisfaction of knowing that you took an active part in helping with keeping your Skule running,

Food and drinks will be served after the meeting as a sign of appreciation for your taking the time to come out.

GET WISE! JOIN WISE

women in science and engineering @ UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

WiSE UofT is a club whose goals are to encourage young women and prepare them for the challenges in the fields of science and engineering

If you are interested in joining WiSE or learning more about it, come out to our very first event!

Science and Engineering Graduates will be speaking on:
"LIFE AFTER UNDERGRAD"

Thursday, November 25, 1999
5 -7 pm in Sidney Smith 2102

For more info, please contact: wise@ecf.utoronto.ca

the back page

The Skule™ Stage Band delivering great jazz to the masses at UofT Day. You too have the opportunity to catch the Stage Band at their upcoming performance at "Jazz at Oscars". Show time is Friday, November 26 from 8:30-11:00 p.m. in the Hart House cafeteria.

Films Under Fire

BY JOHN MOORES

American Beauty — Rated AA

It has been said that the insight of film is through reflection. It teaches not by presenting arguments, but simply by showing what is already there. As such, a great film is shocking not insomuch as it tries to sway us to some undesirable path but as it reveals to us a part of ourselves that we had kept hidden. Film prompts us to look at something in a way that we hadn't considered before.

It seems appropriate, then, that the byline of American Beauty should be "look closer." On the surface, Lester Burnham's (Kevin Spacey) family seems very ordinary. He's a marketing executive who lives with his wife, a perky Real Estate Agent (Anette Bening) and their daugbter in a typical middle-class home in a nameless neigborhood. But not everything is as it seems.

Like so many families these days, the three members do not get along perfectly. In fact Jane (Thora Birch) often muses about the prospect of killing her father, though not in a serious light. Despite this, they maintain an image of normalcy, hiding their respective pain and the desire of each to get away from the reality they know. The image is so complete that Annette Benning's character does not realize the fiction she has created. The professions which screenwriter Alan Ball has given to the Burnham family are fascinating and sublimely appropriate.

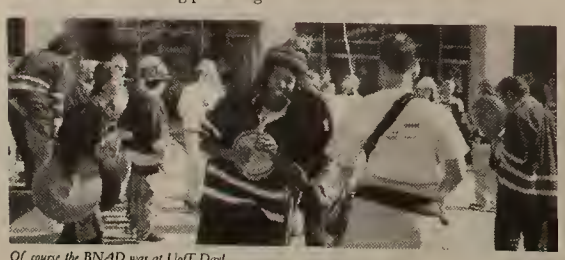
There's nothing sublime or subtle about the boy next door. He has just returned from the drug rehab, but is still peddling dope, most notably to Lester to whom he introduces the habit. In his spare time he films "beautiful things"-everything from dead birds to floating plastic bags to Jane Burnham, the girl next door. All his choices seem peculiar, defying the traditional definitions of beauty.

He becomes the escape and the confidant that Jane is searching for, despite being quickly branded as a freak by Jane's best friend Angela. This is an interesting counter-point as blond-haired, slim and blue-eyed Angela is the personification of a stereotype and as such just seems normal, perhaps even boring in this light. The film seems to suggest that beauty is perhaps more related to an idea of freedom and originality then to a snapshot from a fashion magazine.

American Beauty was directed by first time filmmaker Sam Mendes who is best known for the broadway plays The Blue Room and the revival of Cabaret. Despite this, his film is extremely effective. There is something about his style that gives the film a very personal, perhaps even intimate quality, drawing the camera into each scene. It is augmented by the beautifully evocative and moody score of Thomas Newman (The Shawshank Redemption).

Finally, Lester decides, after years of pushing the company line, to start living again and we all enjoy his "madness." It is the source or the greater part of the comedy in this drama. However, there is a method to it. In fact, perhaps it isn't madness at all. He begins living the way he wants to live and for the first time in his life, he begins to feel free-as if there's something worth living for, even as the foundations of the world he knew collapse around him. This then is the true "american beauty." Not some prefabricated delusion-image, but the idea of living free.

Rating: **** (out of four) ❖



Of course the BNAD was at UofT Day!

Message from the President

BY SEAN VOSKAMP — ENGSOC PREZ

The term is quickly passing by, pretty soon it will be Christmas Holidays. In the meantime I would like to remind you that Remembrance Day is approaching. At the Soldiers tower next to Hart House there will be a ceremony from 10:30 until 11:00am. I put a request in to the Dean and the Vice-Provost: to consider the students who would like to attend the ceremony. As a result, all instructors have been informed that students will be attending the ceremony and to try not to schedule midterms, quizzes, or assignments on that day. I would ask that all students who can attend to please be there. I will be reading a poem titled "Our Memories" at the ceremony.

The Atrium and the Engineering Society is getting upgraded. The Office of Student Affairs is buying new tables, chairs and couches for us. It all comes from the revenue generated by the Zoom ads in the bathrooms. Keep an eye out, it's coming soon. There is some responsibility that comes with this, though. Unlike most buildings on campus, the Sanford Fleming building is accessible pretty much any time of the day. That means that it would be easy to remove some of our new furniture. We opted not to fix the furniture to the floor like the tables around the pit so it can be moved to allow the use of the centre of the Atrium for special events. Student Affairs will be checking up on us to make sure that our new seating arrangements are staying put. If they see that we this is not happening, they will less likely to help renovate other common areas in Engineering. Therefore, I would ask that everyone helps out and makes sure nothing goes missing. If anyone sees anything suspicious please contact the campus police. There is a lot at stake here. The new furniture costs in the thousands of dollars.

We have just finished a little copyright battle with an Internet company called nuskule.com. They offered textbooks and "skule" supplies to university students. They didn't realize that the name 'Skule' is trademarked by the Engineering Society. Assistant-Dean McGrath put us in contact with the same lawyer that took care of the *Varsity Blues* case between U of T and Paramount Studios. We were hoping for a multi-million dollar settlement, but are settling for them to change their name.

I hope everyone is enjoying themselves so far this year. Dinner/Dances are coming up in a few weeks. Oktoberfest was a success. We won the Spirit Award (without stealing it). Thanks to Jenny and the Social Committee for making it a great time. U of T day and the homecoming float went off without a hitch. Thanks to everyone who helped out. ❖

CIT Website Up Soon

A website containing information about the Centre for Information Technology will be available soon. Designed by Jonathan Sprung, it will include links to its future occupants, the site plan, a rough timeline, costs, sources of donations and funds, as well as archived CIT Countdown Newsletters. It can be viewed at http://www.ecf.utoronto.ca/~cit/index.html. ❖

PLANET NΨ

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 13, 1999 — COLONY HOTEL
RECEPTION STARTS AT 6:45 P.M.
$35/TICKET FOR THE FIRST 200 TICKETS
BUY THEM FROM YOUR CLASS REP OR THE ENGSCI CLUB OFFICE
FOR MORE INFO VISIT WWW.ECF.UTORONTO.CA/~BEATTY/DINNERDANCE.HTM